

For 15 years as Chairman and long before that, Bob has worked side by side with people from all walks of life to make our state and nation stronger through their participation. His friends include the famous and the unknown; rich and poor; black, brown, and white; urban and rural; conservative and liberal; and even some Republicans—all those who believe that by bringing people together to find the common good, the great American democratic system offers "the best hope on earth."

On Saturday, September 9th, Texas Democrats and friends from around the country will join in "A Salute to Bob Slagle" in Austin. We join in saluting Bob and thanking the Chairman for his 15-year tenure of service and lifetime of commitment to his party, state, and nation.

Respectfully submitted by:

Henry B. Gonzalez, Twentieth District; E "Kika" de la Garza, Fifteenth District; Charles Wilson, Second District; Martin Frost, Twenty-Fourth District; Charles W. Stenholm, Seventeenth District; Ralph M. Hall, Fourth District; John Bryant, Fifth District; Ronald Coleman, Sixteenth District; Solomon P. Ortiz, Twenty-Seventh District; Jim Chapman, First District; Pete Geren, Twelfth District; Chet Edwards, Eleventh District; Gene Green, Twenty-Ninth District; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Thirtieth District; Frank Tejeda, Twenty-Eighth District; Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr., Twenty-Fifth District; Lloyd Doggett, Tenth District; Shelia Jackson Lee, Eighteenth District.

THE PBS SERIES "THE AMERICAN PROMISE"

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as has been said many times before, ours is the only Nation founded on an idea—the idea of democracy. No idea is more American. Yet the idea of democracy is neither simply defined, nor easily described. American democracy expresses itself in endless variations.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the grassroots of democracy, taking place everyday in communities across the United States, which is literally vital to the life of our Nation, yet too often ignored in the chambers of this Capitol. With this in mind, I recommend to you the American Promise, an important new PBS television series celebrating community-based democracy. The American Promise makes its national broadcast premier on October 1, 2, and 3.

Here, in Washington, we conduct democracy's most visible work. It is the democracy studied in civics and political science classrooms and reported by our newspapers, magazines, and television programs.

We arrive here after elections, propose and study legislation, debate, and then vote on competing bills and amendments. It is a fact that each stage of the process has winners and losers. By necessity we live and work in a world of partisanship and competition. Before any bill becomes the law of the land, it must be debated, tested, and its consequence thoroughly understood by the people and by us, the peoples representatives.

Not surprisingly, this world in which we are immersed leaves many citizens frustrated and

cynical. Too often, this version of democracy seems to be nothing but a political contest. Who is up? Who is down? How do yesterday's events affect the power to get things done tomorrow? Our standing is gauged by an extraordinary sensitive barometer, instantaneously reflecting each small political success and failure.

Yet this work—our work here in Washington—is but one form of American democracy. It is a serious mistake to think otherwise. In community after community throughout America, in large ways and small, citizens decide every day to become part of the democratic process. They do this by joining an organization; bringing other together to improve or expand existing services; inventing a better mousetrap; asking why a flawed practice can't be changed; engaging in a civil and respectful debate; considering another viewpoint; or shouldering the responsibility to make hard decisions.

When this happens, there are no losers. Everybody in the community wins. When a community development bank is opened when none existed before, or when individuals cooperate so that dry lands may be irrigated, no one need ask who is up, or who is down. Score keeping quickly becomes irrelevant. Through action and energy, participation and deliberation, taking responsibility and seeking common ground, American democracy comes to life and everybody in the community wins.

Mr. Speaker, In my view there is no better antidote to doubts about our Nation's future. We need only shift our gaze away from the latest reiteration of partisan one-upmanship, to the grassroots democracy taking place in our communities.

The American Promise, the new PBS series, does exactly that: it reminds us all of the community-based democracy that is found beyond this Capitol, and in so doing, it helps restore our faith in the idea of democracy, the idea of America, and the limitless possibilities for our Nation's future.

The American Promise is a 3-hour television program on civic participation and grassroots democracy. In some 50 different story segments taken from every region of the United States, lessons are offered on the skills and values needed to bring our democracy to life. These vignettes are collected around distinct themes to illustrate core American values such as freedom, responsibility, opportunity, participation, and deliberation.

One of the story segments features an outstanding example of community-based democracy in Chicago in the Seventh Congressional District which I represent. The Full Circle Fund, designed and funded by the Chicago Women's Self-Employment Project, provides vital capital along with business advice to micro-enterprises. In the last 3 years, the Women's Self-Employment Project has lent \$60,000 to 60 low-income women without a single default and a late payment rate of only three percent.

The Full Circle Fund lends to circles, of teams, all women in the circle are responsible for the loan. The circle qualifies for the loan, one or two women in the circle get the money first, then when they have begun paying it back, other circle members are eligible for funds. Circle members meet to collect loan payments, discuss their businesses, and provide each other with support and advice. Together, these women work together to create

opportunity, social capital and the backbone of community democracy.

One of the lending circle meetings at BJ's Professional Beauty Supply will be a part of the American Promise's first hour and it offers all of us much to consider and remember about our communities.

After the October PBS broadcast premier The American Promise will then be put to use in high school and junior high school classrooms throughout the United States, as an instructional tools on civics and community-based democracy.

The National Council for the Social Studies has endorsed the program. And Farmers Insurance Group, the program's corporate sponsor, has pledged to make the video, teaching guides, and classroom materials available to all interested schools and teachers at no cost.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and viewers across the Nation to tune-in to this important program. And I would like to thank the Farmers Insurance Group, and its chairman, Leo E. Denlea, Jr., for bringing The American Promise to us. The program reminds us all of what right about America, and what we have to do to make good on America's bright future.

IN HONOR OF MAJ. GEN. JOHN F. PHILLIPS

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. John F. Phillips, the Commander of the Sacramento Air Logistics Center [ALC] at McClellan Air Force Base. Major General Phillips will be retiring from the Air Force later this month after an exceptional career characterized by many significant and demanding assignments. Because of his outstanding record of leadership and accomplishments, the Secretary of Defense has asked Major Phillips to continue his service to the Nation by selecting him as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Logistics. In this critical position, he will oversee the work done by maintenance depots for all branches of the military.

As commander of the Sacramento ALC, Major General Phillips oversees a center that employs approximately 13,500 civilian and military personnel and manages \$3.2 billion annually, including a \$548 million payroll and \$820 million in contract awards. This center provides worldwide logistics support to a number of aircraft that include the F-117 Stealth fighter, F-22, F-111 series, A-10, F-15 and KC-135; manages more than 200 communication systems and eight space systems; and repairs, overhauls and modifies entire categories of complex avionics components, hydraulic and pneumatic systems, and flight control systems.

Major General Phillips' Air Force career began when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant after receiving his bachelor of science degree with honors in biology and chemistry from Jarvis Christian College, TX. Later, he would earn his master of science degree in logistics management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. In addition, Major General Phillips has also studied and completed academic programs at several